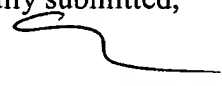


REMARKS

Applicants are submitting this response concurrently with the payment of the issue fee regarding the above-referenced patent application. Based on discussions with Mr. Thomas C. Basso, undersigned attorney of record, and Examiner Samson Lemma, acknowledgment will be made for foreign priority in this case where certified copies of the priority documents have been received in the national stage application. This has been identified in the Notification of Missing Requirements dated February 4, 2002 that was previously issued by the U.S. Patent Office regarding this case. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that issuance of a patent for the present application be made and further that identification of the foreign priority claim be identified on said issued patent as discussed above.

Respectfully submitted,

BY   
Thomas C. Basso (46,541)  
Cust. No. 29175

Dated: January 17, 2006